

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 1960 - HB 2050

March 9, 2020

**SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL:** Adds physiotherapist as a person who is licensed pursuant to Title 63, Chapter 13 who can practice physical therapy. States that a physical therapist (PT), or physiotherapist, is not licensed unless the individual holds a degree from a professional physical therapy program accredited by a national accreditation agency recognized by the United States Department of Education and by the Board of Physical Therapy (BPT).

Makes various changes to what criteria must be met in order to treat a patient without a referral within the scope of practice of physical therapy. Removes the requirement that an applicant for licensure as a PT or PT assistant must be 18 years of age and adds foreign-educated or internationally trained to the list of applicants that must meet certain criteria for licensure as a PT.

Authorizes a PT or PT assistant licensed in a jurisdiction that is a member state of the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact to be eligible to become a licensee for compact privileges in this state.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (016220):** Deletes and replaces all language of the original bill without making any substantive changes to the legislation.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

**Unchanged from the original fiscal note.**

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- The proposed legislation does not create a new licensure category and will not result in the BPT increasing fees.
- Pursuant to Section 4(a), a physical therapist or physiotherapist licensed under Tenn. Code. Ann. § 63-13-301 is fully authorized to practice physical therapy if the individual holds a degree from a professional physical therapy program accredited by a national

accreditation agency recognized by the United States Department of Education and by the Board of Physical Therapy

- Any applicants for a physiotherapist designated license are assumed to have applied and received a physical therapy license in the absence of this legislation; therefore, no change in the number of applications and applicable fees received by the BPT.
- The BPT can create the physiotherapist designated license within existing resources.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-29-121, all health related boards are required to be self-supporting over a two-year period. The Board of Physical Therapy had an annual surplus of \$144,125 in FY17-18, an annual surplus of \$82,547 in FY18-19, and a cumulative reserve balance of \$613,449 on June 30, 2019.

### **CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/jem